

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of generating a menu representing a viewing sequence of display
2 contents during a viewer's viewing session, comprising:

3 recording a first plurality of display contents using a preference engine to
4 select the display content for recording;

5 selectively recording a second plurality of display contents upon a viewer
6 selecting the display contents for recording;

7 defining a viewing session;

8 defining a third plurality of display contents based upon available
9 broadcast display contents during the viewing session and selected based upon
10 the preference engine; and

11 displaying a menu of viewing choices, wherein the menu comprises at
12 least one of the first plurality of display contents, the second plurality of display
13 contents and the third plurality of display contents.

1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the viewing session has a duration of about
2 four hours.

1 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the viewing session is defined as having a
2 predetermined length upon activation of a video system.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising receiving viewer input to select
2 from the menu of viewing choices one or more display contents for the viewing session
3 to define a viewing sequence for display on a display.

1 5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising automatically changing channels
2 during the viewing session, wherein the channels provide the broadcast display
3 contents.

1 6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising analyzing the viewing sequence
2 for conflicts caused by display contents that at least partially overlap.

1 7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising allowing viewer intervention in
2 case of unresolvable conflicts.

1 8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising analyzing the viewing sequence
2 for time gaps and filling the time gaps with display content using the preference engine
3 to select the display content.

1 9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining whether a local
2 source for video display content is connected.

1 10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising scanning the local source to
2 obtain content information.

1 11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising adding the content information
2 as a fourth plurality to the menu of viewing choices.

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1 12. A video system, comprising:

2 an input port configured to receive display contents including a plurality
3 of broadcast display contents;

4 an output port configured to couple to a video display;

5 a preference engine coupled to the input port, the preference engine
6 configured to track viewer selections of the broadcast display contents and to
7 create a viewer profile;

8 a storage device coupled to the input port, the output port and the
9 preference engine, the storage device configured to record a first plurality of
10 display contents according to the viewer profile and to record a second plurality
11 of display contents upon a viewer selecting the display contents for recording;
12 and

13 a management module coupled to the preference engine and the storage
14 device, the management module configured to define a third plurality of display
15 contents based upon the available broadcast display contents for a viewing
16 session and based upon the viewer profile, to create a menu of viewing choices
17 comprising at least one of the first plurality of display contents, the second
18 plurality of display contents and the third plurality of display contents, the menu
19 being displayable on the video display from which a viewer can select a
20 sequence of display contents for the viewing session.

1 13. The video system of Claim 1, further comprising a set-top box coupled to the
2 input port and configured to receive display contents.

1 14. The video system of Claim 1, wherein the preference engine, the
2 management module and the storage device are included in a video control device
3 providing for a functionality of a personal video recorder.

1 15. The video system of Claim 1, further comprising a local source for display
2 content in communication with the preference engine and the management module,
3 wherein the management module is configured to scan the local source to obtain content
4 information.

1 16. The video system of Claim 1, wherein the management module is configured
2 to initiate automatic channel changes.